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ABSTRACT

Rice can be the basis for mosaics, flower arrangements, games, toys, and many things children would like to make. It can add new dimensions to making candles, coasters, and jewelry. Working with rice can aid in the development of appreciation of texture, symmetry, coordination, imagination and, at the same time, result in hand-made gifts for friends and family. Nine craft ideas and instructions for "tinting" rice are provided in this brief guide. (JW)

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CRAFT IDEAS

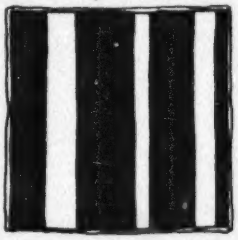
Look no further than your kitchen shelf for a new craft idea. Rice can be used for more than just good eating . . . it can be the basis for mosaics, flower arrangements, games, toys and many things children would like to make. It can add new dimensions to making candles, coasters, jewelry — the only limitations are those of your imagination. Working with rice can aid in the development of appreciation of texture, symmetry, coordination, imagination and, at the same time, result in home-made gifts for friends and family.

MOSAICS

Mosaics and mosaic designs can be made by using different colors of tinted rice and transparent glue . . . on just about anything!

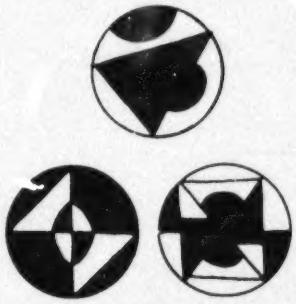
HOT DISH TILES

Cut very heavy cardboard into a 6-inch square. Draw stripes on the cardboard — either all the same width or vary the widths to create a design. Paint strips in two colors that match or mix well with tinted rice you have already prepared. Then choose one color of tinted rice. Apply glue to the stripes you wish to texture with that color. Pour tinted rice over these areas, allow to dry and shake off excess. Repeat this procedure for your other color or colors. Spray with several coats of plastic spray.



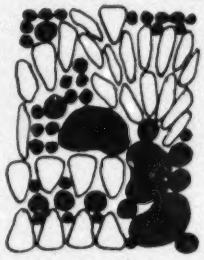
COASTERS

Make coasters in the same way as hot dish tiles except use smaller cuts of heavy cardboard. Draw various geometric shapes that contrast with the coaster shape — diamonds in circles, triangles in squares or combination of shapes. Then use glue, tinted rice and plastic spray to add texture to your colors.



MOSAIC ART

Trace or draw a simple design on a piece of plywood or heavy cardboard. Houses, animals, people or anything your imagination desires can be transferred to whatever size base you wish. Decide on color areas and prepare tinted rice to match those areas. Apply glue to small areas at a time and fill in with rice grains placed close together. Spray with varnish or plastic to give a professional look and assure preservation of the picture. More complex designs can be developed by using tweezers to affix rice grains. Taking advantage of the texture, interesting detail can be added to the design by placing the rice carefully to create an effect. To further take advantage of texture, combine the use of rice with other staples — dried beans, peas, seeds, spices — to emphasize various parts of the design.



PENCIL HOLDERS

Use a tin can or small glass, draw a design and make a mosaic on the outside surface.

JEWELRY

Pins and earrings can be made by gluing tinted rice into tiny patterns — flowers, geometric shapes — on a piece of paper or other base cut to shape. Or, glue the grains together. Then glue pins or earrings onto a backing.

Make pendants the same way with mosaic designs. Cut out a larger design — circle, diamond, triangle — and glue tinted rice onto it in the pattern desired. Punch a small hole on one side and thread with a small wire ring. Then thread another ring through the first so the pendant will lie flat when it hangs from a chain or velvet ribbon.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Flower Parfait
Prepare several compatible colors of tinted rice. Alternating colors, fill a salad dressing bottle or another bottle of an interesting shape with the tinted rice. Arrange dried or artificial flowers in the bottle and dribble enough glue on the top layer of rice to keep everything in place.

Arrangements
Use tinted rice for the basis of a dried flower arrangement. Pour tinted rice in a shallow dish or bowl. "Plant" weeds, dried flowers, unusual twigs or other material in whatever desired. Add small stones, toys or knick-knacks to develop a scene.

CANDLES

Candle Holder
Coat the surface of a small glass or widemouth jar with glue. Roll the glass in a single color of tinted rice. Place a candle inside, light it, and enjoy the patterns of light that flicker through the rice.

Or, make a mosaic on the outside of the jar or glass using the spaces left open to create a design when the candle is lit.

Decorate Candles
Use transparent glue to decorate small candles with rice designs of white or tinted rice. Larger candles can be coated completely with layers of tinted rice.

RICE "BEAN" BAGS

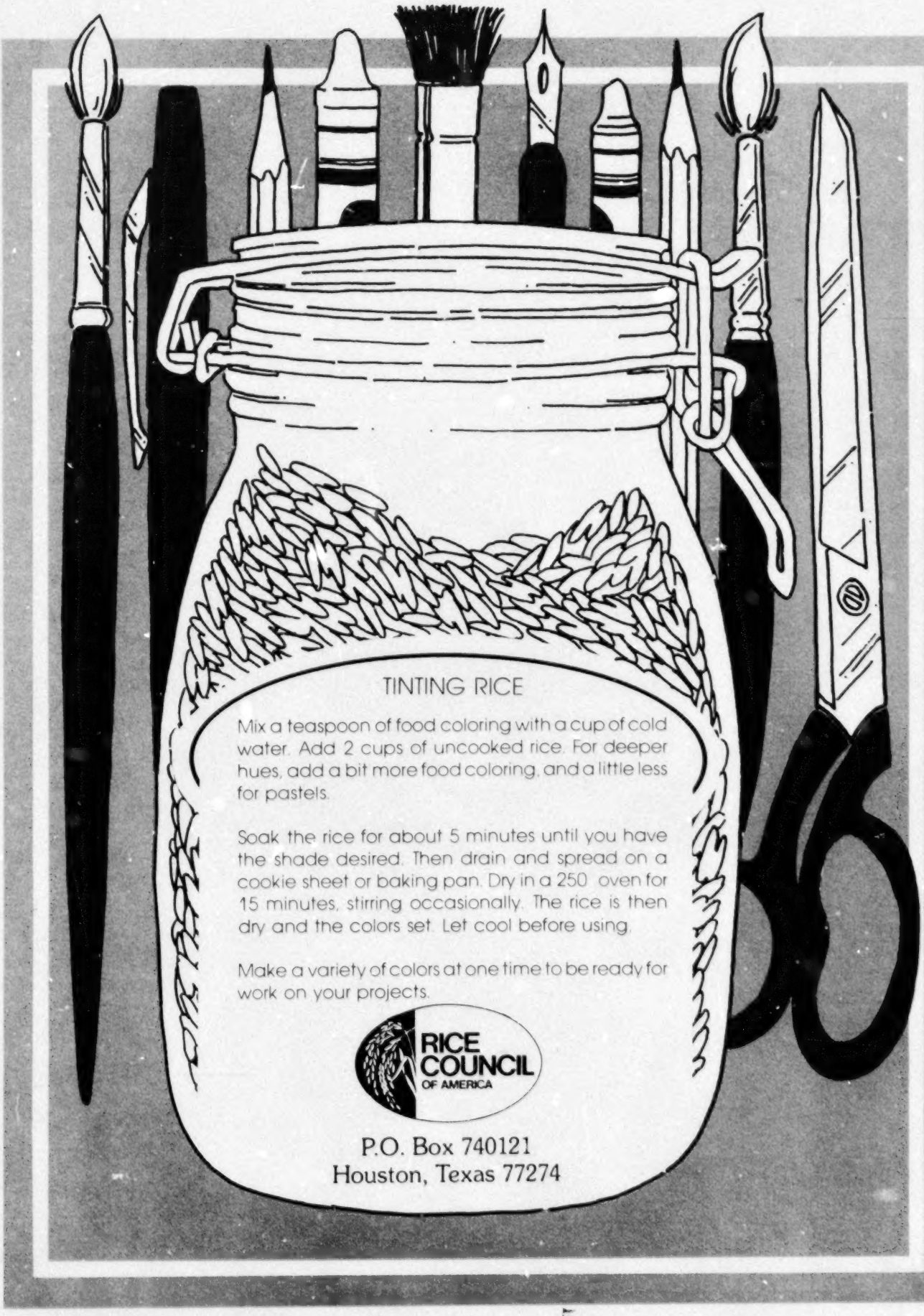
Creating rice "bean" bags is simple — and a perfect project for a rainy or "shut-in" day.

Make them of felt, cut in imaginative shapes, or from materials you might find in a scrap box . . . gingham, fake furs and leathers, knits, etc. Even socks, filled and tied or sewn, can be used to make "quick" rice bags.

Cut the felt or material in the shape desired, such as animals, squares, and circles. Sew right sides together, leaving about two inches unsewn. Turn right sides out, fill with rice and complete the stitching. For animal shapes, add buttons for eyes and sew on mouths, ears, tails, etc. from bits of contrasting materials.

SACHETS

You will need sheer close-woven fabric cut into a 6-inch square. Put about 2 tablespoons of tinted rice on each. Tie with a piece of ribbon and — for the final touch — spray with a dash of cologne.



TINTING RICE

Mix a teaspoon of food coloring with a cup of cold water. Add 2 cups of uncooked rice. For deeper hues, add a bit more food coloring, and a little less for pastels.

Soak the rice for about 5 minutes until you have the shade desired. Then drain and spread on a cookie sheet or baking pan. Dry in a 250 oven for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. The rice is then dry and the colors set. Let cool before using.

Make a variety of colors at one time to be ready for work on your projects.

RICE COUNCIL OF AMERICA

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